

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS' MEETING OF
APRIL 28-29, 1975

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 03679 B. EC BRUSSELS 03725 C. EC BRUSSELS
03631 D. EC BRUSSELS 01719

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MADE
NO PROGRESS ON MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PREFERENCES AND
MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
THE COUNCIL VOTED BUT FAILED TO OVERTURN THE DECISION TAKEN
BY THE COMMISSION LAST WEEK TO ALLOW IMPORTATION OF
50,000 M.T. OF BEEF UNDER EXIM AND 67,500 HEAD OF FEEDER
CATTLE (REF A.)
END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS FINISHED ITS TWO
DAY MEETING THE EVENING OF APRIL 29. IT FAILED TO GET ANYWHERE
ON AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS FOR MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES OR
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ON M.I.P.'S FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THE ITALIAN

DELEGATION QUITE CLEARLY DID NOT WANT ANY DECISIONS TAKEN IN THIS AREA, REPEATING OVER AND OVER ITS GENERAL STATEMENT THAT ITALIAN AGRICULTURE MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED IN THE INTEREST OF THE EC'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. THE POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED OF HAVING A SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WITH EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND AGRICULTURE MINISTERS JOINTLY TO DISCUSS THE MEDITERRANEAN DOSSIER, BUT THIS WAS NOT APPROVED AND THE MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN BY THE NEXT AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, MAY 26-27, 1975.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE MIP ISSUE WAS BRIEF. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WAS NO REFERENCE IN THE COUNCIL TO RECENT US APPROACHES (REF B).

4. THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ITALIAN RESERVATION ON MEDITERRANEAN PREFERENCES COULD DELAY THE SIGNING OF THE EC-ISRAEL AGREEMENT AS WELL AS PREVENTING PROGRESS WITH THE MAGHREB NEGOTIATIONS (REF C). THE ITALIAN STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE TO PRECLUDE ANY SETTLEMENT ON THE PREFERENCE ISSUE BEFORE THE ITALIAN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS OF NEXT JUNE. OUR SOURCES IN THE ISRAELI MISSION SHOW CONCERN ABOUT THIS DELAY, POINTING OUT THAT FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT, ISRAEL MUST BE ASSURED OF EC AGRICULTURAL PREFERENCES WELL IN ADVANCE OF SEPTEMBER, THE BEGINNING OF ITS MARKETING SEASON

5. AT FRENCH INSISTENCE, THE COUNCIL REVIEWED LAST WEEK'S DECISION BY THE COMMISSION TO KIFT THE IMPORT BAN ON BEEF AND

VEAL ON A LIMITED BASIS. IN THE VOTING, FRANCE, IRELAND, AND BELGIUM WERE ALONE IN OPPOSING THE COMMISSION MOVE. THUS, THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO OVERRULE THE COMMISSION DECISION AND IT STANDS.

6. THE COUNCIL FIXED A GUIDE PRICE OF 1000 U.S./M.5. FOR FROZEN HAKE, BASED ON WHICH A REFERENCE PRICE ON IMPORTED FROZEN HAKE FILLETS WILL BE FIXED BY THE COMMISSION. THE MINISTERS WERE FAVORABLE TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR SHORT TERM AID FOR THE PRIVATE STORAGE OF FISH, BUT MUST AWAIT THE PARLIAMENT'S OPINION BEFORE IT CAN TAKE FINAL ACTION.

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7. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE GAVE AN ORAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON PROGRESS IN THAT COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S STOCKTAKING OF THE CAP (REF D). THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE STOCKTAKING IN ONE OF ITS FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

8. THE FEOGA CONTRIBUTION FOR AID TO HILL FRMING REMAINS FIXED AT 25 PERCENT, BUT THE COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY PROPOSE

BEFORE THE END OF 1975 AN INCREASE IN THE FEOGA SHARE FOR
THE FOLLOWING YEARS.

9. OTHER MEASURES DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL WERE SANITARY CONDITIONS
FOR FRESH POULTRY AND DISMANTLING SUBSIDIES FOR GREENHOUSES.
THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN PASSED BACK TO THE SAC FOR FURTHER
STUDY. MEMBER STATES WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AT REDUCED
LEVELS UNTIL JUNE 30, 1976, THEIR NATIONAL SUBSIDIES TO
COMPENSTAE FOR INCREASED FUEL COSTS IN THE HORTICULTURAL
SECTOR.
GREENWALD

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